

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/819,336

Applicant(s)

GRAVES ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Caixia Lu

1713

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to Amendment filed on 6/3//04.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,6-10 and 21-33.
3. The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Cancel claims 11-20.

The cancellation of the instant claims does not require applicants' permission because applicants have withdrawn those claims without traverse in the response filed on Jan. 21, 2003.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The instant claims are directed to a process for the preparation of a baleable carboxylate terminated conjugated diene polymer, wherein the carboxylate terminated polymer has a bulk viscosity (Mooney viscosity) of greater than 45 and a solution viscosity of less than 75 cP.

Hudson (US 3,791,888) teaches a process for the preparation of a polymer of a conjugated dienes by anionically polymerizing conjugated dienes such as butadiene and optional vinyl-substituted aromatic compounds such as styrene in the presence of organolithium initiator and terminating the polymerization with excess amount of carbon dioxide to provide a carboxylate terminated polymer. Although Hudson teaches that semisolid and solid terminally reactive polymer can be prepared having molecular weight up to 150,000 or higher, Hudson does not teach or reasonably suggest the

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carboxylate terminated butadiene polymer to have a bulk viscosity (Mooney viscosity) of greater than 45 and a solution viscosity of less than 75 cP. As indicated in applicants Remarks filed on June 3, 2004, bulk viscosity and solution viscosity of a polymer are determined by the composition and chain structure of the polymer. Since Hudson's carboxylate terminated butadiene polymers has different application compared to those carboxylate terminated butadiene polymers of the instant application, Hudson carboxylate terminated butadiene polymers are unlikely to have the same structures to inherently have the same viscosity properties as the polymers of the instant claims.

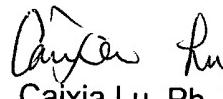
Therefore, the instant claims are deemed to be novel.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Caixia Lu whose telephone number is (571) 272-1106. The examiner can normally be reached from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful and the matter is urgent, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu, can be reached at (571) 272-1114. The fax numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1700.



Caixia Lu, Ph. D.
Primary Examiner